

DO BYZANTINE CATHOLICS PRAY THE ROSARY?

The Roman Catholic devotion of praying the Rosary is not generally a part of the Byzantine prayer life, although some individual Byzantines pray it. This is not because Byzantines in any way reject the Rosary. It's a wonderful method of prayer. We don't generally use it because we have our own repetitive prayer traditions. Asking a Byzantine why he does not pray the Rosary is sort of like asking a Greek why he doesn't speak Latin at the dinner table. The Greek has his own devotions. He can appreciate the devotions of the Latins, but he simply chooses to keep the ones he grew up with that have been handed down over the centuries.

So, what is an example of a Byzantine Equivalent? The "*Jesus Prayer*" ("*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!*"). The "*Jesus Prayer*" is part of the hesychastic prayer tradition that originated in Byzantine monasticism, but which is also very popular among laymen. Typically, this prayer is prayed with the use of a prayer rope, consisting of 100 or 150 knots.